

Historical Sketches
of
Southern Quarterly Meeting
of Friends

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HISTORICAL SKETCHES
of
Southern Quarterly Meeting
of Friends
and
Its Constituent Monthly Meetings



North Carolina Yearly Meeting
1943

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HISTORICAL SKETCHES
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Southern Quarterly Meeting
of Friends
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Prepared by
Members of the Given Meetings

Compiled by
A Quarterly Meeting Committee
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SOUTHERN QUARTERLY MEETING OF FRIENDS NORTH CAROLINA YEARLY MEETING

In the year 1819 Western Quarterly Meeting proposed a division of that quarter as follows: "That Cane Creek, Center, and Spring Meetings constitute Western Quarter, to be held as heretofore, except in fifth month when it is to be held at Rocky River Meeting house; and Back Creek, Holly Spring, and Marlborough Monthly Meetings constitute the new Quarter, which is to be known by the name of the Southern Quarterly Meeting, and to be held on the fourth seventh day in the second, fifth, eighth, and eleventh months, and to be opened at Back Creek Meeting house in the second month next and held at Holly Spring in the fifth month, at Marlborough in the eighth month and at Salem Meeting house in the eleventh month, of which the Meeting approved, and appointed Phineas Albertson, Abijah Pinson, Benajah Hiatt, Jeremiah Hubbard, John Stuart, Joseph Mendenhall and Eleazer Hunt to attend the opening of said Quarterly Meeting and report to next Yearly Meeting."

The opening minute of the new Quarterly Meeting is as follows: "On the 26th of second month, 1820, being the fourth seventh day in the month, Friends being generally met at Back Creek Meeting house, and the Committee from the Yearly Meeting mostly present, the Meeting was accordingly opened, and appointed Stephen Henley Clerk."

The "Select Meeting," which we know as the Meeting on Ministry and Oversight, originated through the following action taken in fifth month following: "This Meeting agrees that there be a select Quarterly Meeting established within its verge, and that it be held where the Quarterly Meetings are held, on sixth day preceding each Quarterly Meeting, and meet at the twelfth hour."

A few minor changes in the schedule of holding Quarterly Meetings have been made. Quarterly Meetings at Salem were discontinued in 1840, and begun at Science Hill in 1894. In recent years the Quarterly Meeting in second month has been alternating between Back Creek and Asheboro. Occasional Quarterly Meetings have been held at High Falls, Hopewell, Poplar Ridge, and Bethel.

The persons who have served the Quarterly Meeting as Clerks are as follows:

*Stephen Henley	1820	Samuel A. Henley	1887
William Dennis	1820	Levi B. Macon	1889
Phineas Nixon	1822	David Farlow, Sr.	1895
Aaron Stalker	1834	Anderson Barker	1897
Joseph Newlin	1841	Levi B. Macon	1898
Nathan Craven	1849	Anderson M. Barker	1900
William Clark	1852	David Farlow, Sr.	1905
Nathan P. Hill	1860	Benoni J. Stout	1910
Nathan Spencer	1861	Luellen Farlow	1918
Isaac Lee	1866	Benoni J. Stout	1919
Thomas Hinshaw	1877	Samuel R. Pickett	1928
James A. Allen	1882	Benoni J. Stout	1929
Jeremiah S. Cox	1884	Hope Hubbard	1931

*Died in office.

Clerks have always had their trials and tribulations. In the year 1893 one committee reported as follows: "We are doing what we can, but are not ready to say what we can do!"

The Yearly Meeting budget was two hundred dollars when Southern Quarterly Meeting was set up, and its proportionate part was twenty-six dollars.

For seventy-four years Southern Quarterly Meeting was made up of only three Monthly Meetings, Back Creek, Marlboro, and Holly Spring. Science Hill, in 1894, was the first new one to be set up. Today there are eleven Monthly Meetings, with the local Meeting at High Falls belonging to Prosperity. Needhams Grove was set up as a Monthly Meeting in 1907, and laid down in 1913. Several particular Meetings have been discontinued, such as Salem, Uwharrie, Pine Ridge, Little River, and others.

In the early days of Southern Quarterly Meeting the women held separate business sessions. This practice continued for more than three-quarters of a century. A joint session of the Men's and Women's Meetings is mentioned as early as 1873, but it was many years later before the Women's Meeting ceased to exist as a separate unit.

In 1856 the Yearly Meeting directed the Meetings of Southern Quarter to "open First-day schools as way opens," but five years later at the opening of the Civil War, only one such school was reported. In 1866 just after the close of the War, nine First-day schools were reported. Several week-day schools were under the supervision and direction of the different Monthly Meetings.

An interesting insight into the work of Friends prior to the Civil War comes from the direction of the Yearly Meeting to Southern

Quarter in 1825 to raise one hundred twenty-five dollars as its proportionate part of one thousand dollars which was needed to "assist the people of color, under Friends care, in migrating to free governments." It was illegal in North Carolina to set slaves free, and a great many of them had been entrusted by individuals to the care of the Meeting for Sufferings of the Yearly Meeting. This body, against its will, had to acknowledge them as property, or give them up into regular slavery. This "ownership" of a large number of colored people was a matter of great concern to Friends. Finally funds were raised to send them to areas where they might be set free.

Friends in Southern Quarter, as in other places, were generations ahead of their times in becoming awake to the evils of the slavery system. They were likewise pioneers in education, supporting schools of their own long before the beginning of the public school system. A century ago a great crusade was launched against the liquor traffic, and the local Meetings were asked to inquire into the life of every individual member and report the findings to Quarterly Meeting. Those who used liquor "other than as a medicine" were dealt with in accordance with the discipline. Their testimony against war and militarism was upheld through the Civil War and other periods of testing at the cost of great suffering.

It is noteworthy that the Quarterly Meeting minutes contain practically no reference to the various wars occurring during the one hundred twenty-five years of its existence. The discussions, the anxieties, and the sufferings were consistently omitted from the minutes.

The membership of Southern Quarter fifty years ago (1893) was nine hundred twenty-five. The last half-century has shown a steady increase in membership, but a decline in distinctive Quaker characteristics. The Friends of today are more nearly like their neighbors. There has been a decided increase in evangelistic endeavor; and a growing interest in foreign missions. Southern Quarterly Meeting is in a healthy, growing condition today, but shows "some deficiency" in a knowledge and understanding of the true spirit of Quakerism.

In the earlier years of Southern Quarter, appointment to attend Quarterly Meeting was considered a very weighty matter. Whenever a person failed to attend, a satisfactory reason had to be given. Those attending were always asked to bring back that which was "given them in charge."

In recent years there has been an increasing interest in the historical background of Friends in Southern Quarter. At a Quarterly Meeting in 1937 Friends asked that a brief historical sketch of some one Meeting be read in each Quarterly Meeting session following until sketches of all Meetings had been presented. At the conclusion of this series, a committee was appointed to assemble these historical papers and have

them printed in booklet form. This present booklet is the work of the committee, and is presented to Friends of Southern Quarter in second month, 1943.

BACK CREEK

About five miles west of Asheboro in Randolph County is a large Friends Meeting house known as Back Creek, which probably got its name from a nearby creek. This Meeting was organized in the year 1785, and the meetings at first were held in the homes.

In the year 1787 Thomas Winslow deeded 26 acres of land to the trustees of back Creek Friends, of which John Winslow was Overseer. The first Meeting house was built about the year 1789.

On the 12th of 11th month, 1792, Back Creek Friends, through Cane Creek Monthly Meeting, requested Western Quarterly Meeting to set up a Monthly Meeting at that place. The request was granted and the Meeting was set up twelfth month twenty-ninth, 1792.

Following are the names of some of the active members of the Meeting during its early existence: Mary Albertson, John Baily, Hilda Bundy, Samuel Bundy, Rachel Cole, Exum Elliott, Jacob Elliott, Elizabeth Fentress, Pharaby Fentress, Michael Harvey, Jesse Henley, John Henley, Kiziah Henley, Mary Henley, Jesse Hill, Joseph Hill, Mary Hill, William Hill, Elisha Hobbs, Fannie Hobbs, Andrew Hoover, Elizabeth Hoover, Jonas Hoover, Elizabeth Hunt, Phineas Hunt, Edward Henley, Reuben Lamb, William Lee, Mary Mills, Elizabeth Newby, Penelope Newby, William Newby, Millicent Nixon, Phineas Nixon, Ephriam Overman, Rachel Overman, Cornelius Ratcliff, Elizabeth Ratcliff, Elizabeth Small, Obediah Small, Thomas Thornburg, Martha Williams, Caroline Winslow, Thomas Winslow. Back Creek is the oldest Monthly Meeting in Southern Quarter. Science Hill, Hopewell, and Asheboro, have all been set up from Back Creek.

In the year 1835 the Preparative Meeting recognized the value of the First-day school, and appointed a committee to conduct one at that place for the purpose of instructing the young people or others in scriptural knowledge.

For some years prior to 1851 the Monthly Meeting was held alternately between Back Creek and Uwharrie, but always carried the name of Back Creek Monthly Meeting. Both places had a Preparative Meeting. In the year 1856 there was a committee appointed to ascertain what portion of the members used spirituous liquors as a drink and report to Yearly Meeting. This was done for a long time after the above date.

In 1861 when the war between the North and South began, the Society of Friends was already freeing its slaves. They were freed by

Philadelphia at Germantown in 1776; in New York in 1777. By the close of the 18th century no member of Friends who owned any slaves was in good standing.

Back Creek had a hard struggle between 1861 and 1865, but by faith and perseverance it was kept alive. A great many times there were few who could get to the Meeting house; but those few went and held meeting. A part of those four years the mid-week meeting was kept up by two members, William Lowe and Rachel Henley. They came at different times on fourth day at 11 o'clock and found no one else present but they had an hour of worship just as if a score of Friends were present.

Soon after the close of the war the Sabbath School was reorganized. It was the only Bible School any where near. Therefore it proved to be a benediction to the community. People came on foot, and on horseback several miles to get to the school. One family of children walked eight miles during the spring and summer months, and were always there at 9:30, the hour for opening school.

In 1866, or 1867, a new school house was built on the church property, largely by Friends. For a number of years after the building of the school house, members of Friends were employed as teachers in the school, some of whom were a great help in the rebuilding of the church organization. The teachers were paid by the use of what public money there was, by private subscription, and by the Baltimore Association of Friends.

As far back as the writer can remember, Back Creek Meeting has had a recorded minister, Pharaby Hammond being the first one. Later her grandson, Elwood Cox, was recorded and remained a minister in this Meeting until Hopewell was set up. In 1876 Sarah E. Winslow, who was a minister, brought her membership to Back Creek and was a member there until Science Hill was set up in 1894, of which Meeting she became a charter member.

Ministers who have served the Meeting as pastors are: John S. Tillman, Herbert Reynolds, Samuel Pickett, D. Virgil Pike, Allie R. Kemp, and the present pastor, Milner A. Cox.

MARLBORO

The first Marlboro Meeting house was erected sometime prior to 1797, for it is known that a building was already in use when the lot was conveyed to Friends by James Allen. In 1816, Marlboro and Salem Preparative Meetings requested to "hold a Monthly Meeting circular between them." Previous to this time both had been under the jurisdiction of Centre Monthly Meeting.

A committee, appointed by Centre Monthly Meeting to visit them, reported in favor of their request being granted. Western Quarterly Meeting, which was held at Spring, united with the request, and directed said Meeting to be opened at Salem Meeting house on the 1st 7th day of 9th month, 1816, by the name of Marlborough Monthly Meeting. Joseph Hill, John Winslow, Jesse Towel, Joshua Chames, Sarah Dixon, Hannah Tompson, Ann Hill, and Anna Peacock, were appointed from the different meetings in the Quarter to attend the opening of the same.

The following are names of some of those who composed the original membership of Marlboro Monthly Meeting: Rebecca Carter, Dougan Clark, Abigail Coffin, John Coffin, Jesse Davis, Mary Davis, Miller Davis, Deliah Dennis, Elizabeth Dennis, William Dennis, Peter Dicks, Ann Dicks, Huldah Elliott, Joseph Elliott, Ruth Elliott, George Farlow, Michael Farlow, Stephen Henley, Annis Hinshaw, Benjamin Hinshaw, Hannah Hinshaw, Eunice Hinshaw, Jacob Hinshaw, Jesse Hinshaw, Rebecca Hinshaw, Sarah Hinshaw, Seth Hinshaw, Thomas Hinshaw, James Hodgkin, Joseph Hodgkin, Ruth Hodgkin, William Jones, Hannah Justic, Nancy McCollum, Daniel McCrackin, Elizabeth McCrackin, Mary McCrackin, Robert McCrackin and wife Martha, Rachel Marmon, John Newlin, Sarah Newlin, Elizabeth Norton, Henry Powell, Mournen Powell, Isaac Spencer, Mary Spencer, John Stalker, Keziah Stalker, Elizabeth Symons, Matthew Simons, Sarah Simons, Lydia Swaney, Sarah Thornborough, Abigail Wilson.

William Dennis was appointed the first Clerk with Michael Farlow Assistant Clerk; the other Clerks were Aaron Stalker, Joseph Newlin, and Enoch Farlow.

At the first Monthly Meeting Robert McCrackin, and his wife, were recommended to the station of Elders, which was approved. Other Elders were Nancy Clark, Mary Farlow, and Enoch Farlow. Jesse Hinshaw and Joseph Elliott were the first trustees of the Monthly Meeting.

In the 7th month, 1817, Peter Dicks and Dougan Clark were recommended to be in the station of ministers. No other one is mentioned for minister until David Farlow in 1850. Others followed, as Nathan F. Spencer in 1872; David S. Farlow in 1886; Seth C. Barker in 1893; and Michael A. Farlow in 1895; Michael C. Farlow a little later; and Margaret Farlow in 1939.

In 5th month, 1819, the Meeting "taking under solid consideration the declining state of our Society, appoints Dougan Clark, Peter Dicks, Robert McCrackin, and William Carter, to visit the families of this Meeting and labor therein as they may be abilitated, for the removal of these deficiencies among us."

Much is said about the oppression of the people of color. In the

minutes of twelfth month, 1826, the Yearly Meeting required in their behalf, that Marlboro Monthly Meeting and Preparative Meeting raise the amount of \$88.54 to help remove them to free government. The states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Pennsylvania could receive them, and later sixty-three were removed at a cost of \$1,093.81.

All through the minutes of the first few years there are complaints for using spirituous liquors to excess, for not paying debts, marrying contrary to discipline, for non-attendance at meetings, and deviating from plainness of dress. Later the Meeting had to investigate and make a report of all who "used spirituous liquors to excess, as a medicine, and not at all."

In 1829 Friends of the different Monthly Meetings, including Marlboro, were requested to labor in love and tenderness with those who had artificial grave stones erected in the grave yards, and have them removed. The question arose again in 1831, and Peter Dicks, Aaron Lindley, Seth Hinshaw, John Stalker, Dougan Clark, and Isaac Farlow, were appointed to look after the matter, and also to act as a committee on education.

In accordance with the general Quaker movement of 1829 to establish schools in every Monthly Meeting within the range of North Carolina Yearly Meeting, Marlboro Monthly Meeting attempted to do its share in contributing toward the work.

In 10th month, 1838, the long spelling of Marlborough was changed to Marlboro.

The First-day schools were begun in 1857, according to the direction sent out from the Quarterly Meeting.

During the Civil War a committee was appointed to look after Friends in military camps, and a part of this committee went to Richmond, Virginia, to learn of Seth W. Loflin and Joshua A. Hill. Seth Loflin had died, but Joshua Hill had passed beyond the Federal lines into Indiana, and after the surrender, came back home in North Carolina. Others visited in the prison guard-house were Allen and Daniel Millikan, Jesse and William Hill, Henry Poole, and John A. Wall. They were encouraged to be faithful to all the religious testimonies of Friends. The committee's expenses were paid by the Monthly Meeting, to the amount of \$259.00.

The first statistical report was given in 1873. The first minute about tobacco shows that 109 cultivated it, and 27 sold it.

Marlboro Monthly Meeting has served in the community in which it was established for a period of 126 years. The present church building is a substantial frame structure, and until recently was divided through the center by a partition for holding separate sessions. The interior has been changed to meet present-day conditions, and additional rooms accommodate the Sunday School classes.

The cemetery is quite large, and an additional three acres of land has been purchased recently. It is well cared-for. Within its bounds are buried many notable Friends of the early days of our history in central North Carolina. Quite different from 1829, we find the graves now marked by beautiful and expensive granite and marble monuments. The older portion of the ground has but few markers, and many of the graves are lost entirely.

HOLLY SPRING

Whoever may have been the first to settle in the Holly Spring community, we are reasonably sure of one thing—that he was a Quaker from Pennsylvania, and that he is now sleeping in the old Stone Graveyard, located on lands now belonging to Everitt Cox. Around 200 pioneers rest there, many of them nameless upon this earth forever. The two Indians who were the first persons to be buried there, according to tradition, are no longer to be distinguished from their pale-faced neighbors.

It is not known whether there has ever been a house of worship at this location, although a reference in the Cane Creek minutes of 1765 to the "Meeting of Indulgence on Mill Creek in Cox's Settlement" indicates that services of worship were held nearby. It is evident that this site was originally chosen for the Meeting, but its proximity to the river on the east, and its distance from the true center of the growing Quaker community, led Friends of later years to consider a new location. In 1787 Richard Caswell deeded 50 acres of land to Benjamin Cox "for the use of the Society of people called the Quakers." This location derived its name from the holly trees which overshadowed a nearby spring. The first structure was built of logs, and stood just east of the present cemetery where one of the corner stones may still be seen. Tradition says this house was burned. At any rate, a new frame building was erected around 1830, which stood until 1890, when the present Meeting house was built.

It is difficult to ascertain the exact date of the beginning of the Meeting, as the records of Cane Creek, its parent Meeting, are not clear. In second month, 1758, Friends "inhabiting on the waters of Deep River" requested to hold a Meeting every First day, which was granted. The first mention of the name Holly Spring occurs in the minutes of eighth month, 1769, when Christopher Hussey and Joseph Comer were appointed Overseers. A Preparatory Meeting was set up in 1790, and an independent Monthly Meeting was established in 1818, with Robert Moffitt, Clerk.

The earliest known certificate of membership was brought down

from Pennsylvania by William Cox in 1752, to Cane Creek. It was necessary for it to be left there until the Monthly Meeting was established at Holly Spring. The community was at first known as the "Cox Settlement" on account of the abundance of Cox families. Other prominent names of the early years are Moffit, Barker, Hadley, Comer, Hinshaw, Kemp, Davis, and Allen.

From the early days of Holly Spring as a Monthly Meeting a school was held under the direction of the Meeting. The school house stood about a hundred yards south of the first log Meeting house. Braxton Craven, who was to become the first president of Trinity College, now Duke University, was teacher for one term. At one time there were six different schools under the direction of Holly Spring Monthly Meeting, viz.: Holly Spring, Bethel, Middleton, Pine Ridge, Woody's, and Tabernacle. A well-stocked library was kept in the Meeting house, the remnants of which are kept until the present time.

By 1832 the great westward migration had set in. Just how many people left the community we do not know, but Holly Spring has never since been the Quaker stronghold that it was formerly. The Meeting suffered severely during the Civil War period. A number of the men, not being willing to bear arms, were subjected to severe punishment. An account of their suffering for their peace testimony may be found in Fernando Cartland's *Southern Heroes*. The Meeting was assisted in various ways by Friends in the North.

A careful study of the minutes reveals the fact that early Holly Spring Friends were strong leaders in bearing testimony against the moral evils of the day. Determined efforts were made to keep the membership clear of worldliness. Committees were appointed to labor with Friends who had departed from Quaker ideals in dress or conduct, and if no change resulted, such individuals were disowned.

When the North Carolina Yearly Meeting adopted the pastoral system generally, Holly Spring continued to depend upon resident and visiting individuals for its ministry. William Cox, Franklin Hinshaw, and others, have served the Meeting well as resident ministers in recent years. Thomas Andrew was the first non-member to serve the Meeting in a pastoral capacity. Ed. Harris, of Western Quarter, is minister at present.

As new customs and practices were introduced a group of the more conservative members of the Meeting withdrew and formed a new Friends center, known as Friendsville.

Three other Monthly Meetings have been set up from Holly Spring namely: Bethel, Prosperity, and Needhams Grove (now discontinued).

The Holly Spring Meeting house is one of the few remaining places of worship in the North Carolina Yearly Meeting where the

distinctive Quaker gallery and facing-benches are still in use, and where one may still see the partition which once separated men's and women's business meetings. The gallery is separated by this partition, but a small door once permitted the passing of business matters from one clerk's desk to the other.

The present membership of Holly Spring is one hundred four.

SCIENCE HILL

In the southern part of Randolph County not far from state highway 62 in a quiet grove of oak, hickory, pine and maple trees may be seen a large white edifice—Science Hill Friends Meeting house.

Prior to the setting up of a Friends Meeting in this locality the Methodists had held services in the one room school house which stood on the crest of the knoll just south of the present structure. All the people were welcome to attend these services. But since there were several Friends in the community who were either members of Back Creek Monthly Meeting, or who had married and come to live in the neighborhood and had Friendly convictions, there was a feeling that Friends might organize and set up a Meeting there.

In the summer of 1892, Mary Moon, a Friends minister from Indiana, came to the community with a concern for religious work. A series of evangelistic services were held. There was a great spiritual awakening, such as this section of the country had not known. Christian people of all faiths re-consecrated and re-dedicated themselves to the great task of promoting the Master's kingdom, and great numbers were brought into the fold of Christ. There was a felt need for a Friends church in which they might worship, and thus this band of Friends set themselves to the task of constructing the Meeting house in which we worship today.

In those days many of the group were just young people starting on the journey of life, or parents with small children, and money was hard to get. But this group had set their eyes upon a star and nothing was to sway them from their fixed purpose. Each family and individual gave as liberally as he felt he could of money, time, material and energy. Thus it was that with the untiring efforts of the Lowes, Vuncannons, Winslows, Bingham, Lewises, Lassiters, and Lewallens the church was built and paid for.

On the twenty-sixth day of fifth month, 1894, at the Southern Quarterly Meeting of Friends, the following request was made: "The Friends of Science Hill request through Back Creek Monthly Meeting, for a Monthly Meeting to be set up at that place and to be held on the fourth seventh day in each month, except on the second, fifth,

eighth, and eleventh months, then to be held on the third seventh day, and to be known as Science Hill Monthly Meeting of Friends, which this meeting in joint session approves, and appoints Henry H. Beeson, Levi B. Macon, Dr. Charles Hubbard, Levi Cox, Elma C. Macon, Lizzie Coltrane, Grace Lowe, and Isabelle Henley to attend the setting up of said Meeting, on the fourth seventh day in seventh month next at 11 o'clock and report to next meeting."

The committee appointed to attend the opening of Science Hill Monthly Meeting met at the time appointed and opened the meeting by appointing Elwood Cox and Isabelle Henley Clerks for the day. There were eighty-five charter members, the greater part of this number being young people of teen age and children.

Those whose names appear on this first church roll who are active in the church at the present time are William W. Lassiter, Elma Lewis Barnes, and Addie Lassiter Vuncannon.

It is interesting also to note that at the setting up of Science Hill Monthly Meeting, William C. Winslow was appointed Clerk and this position was filled by him until a few years ago when the infirmities of age made it impossible for him to carry on the work. Then the Assistant Clerk, Hope Hubbard, assumed this responsibility and has been serving the Meeting ably and efficiently since.

As the years have come and gone the membership has changed greatly. From time to time it has been lessened by requests for removal of membership by those who have moved out of the community. But during the same period different ones have moved into our midst and asked that they might be affiliated with the church either by letter or through profession of faith. Notably in this number is the beloved family of our own Dr. Charles C. Hubbard; they have given unstintingly of their time and means. Through lives such as these is God's kingdom extended. The present membership numbers 97.

For a number of years Sarah E. Winslow, a minister of the Gospel, ably served this meeting as pastor. After Sarah Winslow, or aunt Sallie as she was affectionately called, we have had several ministers to serve as pastor. They are John S. Tillman, Alvin Barrett, Herbert W. Reynolds, Oscar Cox, Clarence Macon, Calvin Gregory, Samuel Pickett, Edward B. Harris, Victor Murchison, and Charlie Lamar. During this same period of time, series of religious services have been held either through a felt need on the part of the local church or due to an individual call to do personal work. Some who have been in our midst for this type of work are: Mary Moon, later as Mary Moon Meredith, Dr. Harrell, Milner Angel, later as Milner Angel Cox, Lewis McFarland, Absolom Knight, Mrs. Mendenhall, Calvin Gregory, Bessie Fields Moon, and Edward B. Harris.

When we look back into the faces of some of those Friends who graced the front pews of this church we speak reverently and with bowed head as we name William and Sarah Winslow, Daniel and Samira Lowe, Annice Vuncannon, Elizabeth Lassiter, and Sarah Bingham; their lives were a benediction.

POPLAR RIDGE

A number of Friends families were living in the Poplar Ridge community long before the Meeting came into existence. These Friends were members of the Marlboro Monthly Meeting, and attended worship services there. Distance and travel difficulties caused Friends to begin thinking of a local place of worship. Gradually a real concern developed, which was encouraged by visiting Northern Friends who promised financial assistance.

On the fourteenth of twelfth month, 1857, Joshua Hill deeded to the trustees of Marlboro, David Davis, William Jones and Isaac Coletrane, a tract of land on which to build a Meeting house. A small building was erected soon thereafter which was used for worship, for First-day school, and for week-day school. Northern Friends, unknown today, but probably of Baltimore or Philadelphia, helped to pay for the building.

A request to Marlboro for the setting up of a Monthly Meeting at Poplar Ridge was made by J. Newton Farlow in 1906. After some discussion the request was granted, and the Meeting set up the fourteenth of ninth month, 1906. John F. Beeson and Jones C. Vuncannon, who were then trustees of Marlboro, deeded the property to the new Monthly Meeting in 1908. There were thirty charter members. The first Clerk was Nathan H. Ferguson. He was followed by Thomas E. Farlow, Newton Farlow, Herbert Lanier, George W. Spencer, and the present Clerk, George W. Frazier.

Early leaders of the Meeting were Tommy Jones, Alfred Ferguson, Mike Spencer, and their respective families. Meetings for worship were held First and fourth days at eleven o'clock. Some Friends were not in unity with the pastoral system, and there was no regular minister. Many of the meetings for worship were entirely silent. One minister has been recorded by the Poplar Ridge Meeting—Herbert C. Lanier.

Prominent ministers who visited the Meeting under special concern before it became a Monthly Meeting were Rufus King, Albert Peele, and Mary Moon. The first to serve the Meeting in a pastoral capacity was Michael C. Farlow. He was followed by Samuel Cross, Samuel Pickett, Thomas Stamey, and others.

The Meeting for various reasons was in a period of low activity

when Margaret Farlow came under special concern for the work early in 1936. She did much earnest and efficient work in the community, and a great awakening came to the Meeting. Cora Lee and Charles Johnson followed her in the work later in the year. The membership has grown to one hundred six.

The present spacious Meeting house, built in 1938, is the third to serve the community. It stands on the spot where the first building was erected. The second, built in 1912, stood just across the road. A new parsonage has been built a short distance away on a lot given by George W. Frazier. Poplar Ridge is now an energetic, thriving rural Meeting.

PROSPERITY

The first Meeting house was erected about the year 1875, in sight of the present building. This building was designed and used for school purposes, as well as for the church worship services. Its founders were George Councilman, Robert Paschal, Robert Wilson, Sandy Wilson, Pete Councilman, Milo Councilman and others of the community.

Prosperity Church, when first set up, was not restricted to any one denomination. It was built for ministers and laymen of good standing in all denominations.

In the year 1880 a Preparative Meeting was set up by Cane Creek Monthly Meeting, and later transferred to the Holly Spring Monthly Meeting. During the first few years of Prosperity Meeting there was no regular pastor, but revival meetings were held at regular intervals, and Sabbath School was never permitted to go down. Thomas Inman and Isham Cox were the principal preachers during this period.

When William E. and Ellen H. Woody came to Highfalls about the year 1900 they took a special interest in Prosperity Church and in the people living in the vicinity. At the request of Ellen Woody, a regular pastor was secured, and regular services were started. Levi Cox was the first pastor; he agreed to preach regularly, asking only that the church pay his transportation to and from services—about fifty cents each trip. Since that time the church has had a regular pastor, regular preaching, and regular Sabbath School. The pastors who have served since that time are as follows: Thomas Andrews, Alpheus White, Dougan Cox, Herbert Reynolds, Joseph A. Price, Samuel R. Pickett, Edward Harris, Cora Lee Norman Gardner, and York Teague.

Not long after the Woodys came to Highfalls a Friends meeting house was built there, and in 1907 a joint Monthly Meeting was set up at Prosperity and Highfalls. This Meeting is held on Saturday before the first Sunday in each month at alternate churches.

About the year 1905 a new meeting house was built at Prosperity under the supervision of Herbert W. Reynolds, and with the persistent efforts of such Friends as John Brady, Eli Welch, David Wilson, N. I. Finison, the Councilmans, Manesses and others.

Even though there has been a decline in membership for the past few years, there is now a definite trend toward growth and development in Sabbath School and church worship.

ASHEBORO

The beginning and growth of the Asheboro Friends Meeting may be accounted for very largely in terms of families who have moved from the rural areas of Randolph to the town of Asheboro. Nearly every Meeting in Southern Quarter is represented in the membership.

By invitation of interested Friends in Asheboro, Ada Lee, pastor of the Archdale Friends Meeting, came to Asheboro on the first Sunday in June, 1913, and preached at the First Baptist Church. At this service much interest was shown, not only by Friends, but by a great many other people.

Ada Lee returned to Asheboro on July 21st of the same year and held a conference with interested Friends in the Presbyterian Church. A committee was appointed to solicit interest in, and support of, the work of Friends in Asheboro. An organization was effected on the evening of September 14th following. On this date Ada Lee was inaugurated as pastor of the new work. By invitation of the Presbyterians, the Friends joined with them in Sunday school and prayer meeting work for a time. Meetings for worship were held in the Presbyterian Church and in the Armory Hall.

Within a period of two years the Friends group in Asheboro was sufficiently strong to become an independent Monthly Meeting. Following is an extract from the minutes of Southern Quarterly Meeting of Friends held at Back Creek third month 27th, 1915: "The Committee appointed to investigate the subject of establishing a Monthly Meeting at Asheboro reported that they were united in granting the request which is satisfactory to this Meeting. Levi Low, Louisa Low, David Farlow, Sophrona Farlow, William Winslow, Smira Low, Benoni Stout, Delia Hinshaw, William Woody, Ellen Woody, Lewis Spencer, and Anna Spencer, are appointed to meet at Asheboro on the sixth day before the 2nd First day in next month at 10:00 a. m. and set up said Meeting to be known as Asheboro Monthly Meeting, and report to next Meeting."

An account of the work of the above Committee is given as follows: "After a devotional meeting, the Committee appointed by the

Quarterly Meeting to set up a Monthly Meeting at Asheboro met fourth month ninth, 1915, and proceeded to open the Meeting by reading the minute of their appointment and appointing Benoni J. Stout Clerk for the day. The following is a list of the members of the Meeting: Eleazer Winslow, Hannah Winslow, Albion R. Lowe, Mattie Lowe, Ida Phillips, Elwood Cox, minister, Mary A. Cox, Irvin T. Cox, Leonta Cox, Milner A. Cox, minister, Nettie Lewallen, Eli H. Bean, Julia Bean, Fannie Johnson, Ella Bowman, Carrie Skeen, Evangeline Rush, and Virginia Lowe, associate member. Elwood Cox was appointed Clerk, and Evangeline Rush, Assistant Clerk, for next Meeting. Eleazer Winslow, Evangeline Rush, and Ella Bowman were appointed to bring forward to next Meeting the names of suitable Friends for officers of this Meeting for the coming year. Then adjourned."

Three of these charter members, Ella Bowman, Fannie Johnson, and Nettie Lewallen, are still active members of the Meeting.

In 1915 a lot on Hoover Street was given by C. J. Cox and Virgil Presnell, and the present building was erected. Since that time a basement has been added, six Sunday School class rooms attached to the main auditorium, and an annex built which houses two large Sunday School classes. In recent years the auditorium has been redecorated and modern lighting fixtures installed. Hoover Street was paved in 1942, and extensive improvements were made on the church grounds.

The Meeting purchased a lot on the corner of Worth and Elm Streets in 1935, and a modern seven-room brick parsonage was constructed.

The Meeting has grown steadily in interest and membership during the past twenty-eight years. The membership is at present two hundred thirty-five. The regular congregation, however, includes many families who still maintain their memberships in their own rural Meetings. The Sunday school numbers two hundred fifty, which makes it one of the larger ones in the North Carolina Yearly Meeting.

The following pastors have served the Meeting: Ada Lee, Elwood Cox, Milner A. Cox, Eli Reece, Joseph Peele, Fred Ryan, A. C. Barrett, Thomas Andrew, Clarence Macon, George Moore, Calvin Gregory, John M. Permar, Herman Parker, D. Virgil Pike, and Seth B. Hinshaw, present pastor.

HOPEWELL

Some one hundred years ago a burying ground was started where the present Hopewell cemetery is located. A large number of people were buried there before a church was erected. Calhoon Vuncannon's mother was buried at the burying ground, and he stated upon return-

ing home that it was a shame to hold a funeral and bury the dead in the woods!

Calhoon Vuncannon started out the next day with a petition to erect a church. All of the people agreed, and soon got the building under way. On the 6th day of 2nd month, 1885, Eli Branson gave 13 acres of land, on which the church now stands. The land was deeded to Back Creek Monthly Meeting of Friends. This was sealed by John Stuart, J. P., on the tenth day of second month, 1885. John Hammond and Levi Branson were the contractors for the building, Lee and Clark Hammond hauled the lumber, and all others helped in every way they could, as all were interested in the establishment of the church. When the building was completed, W. R. Ashworth and Calhoon Vuncannon said that they "hoped it would do well!" The church thereby got its name, "Hope-well."

The church was soon ready for worship, and the first Sunday school was held on the 6th day of 5th month, 1885. Some of the oldest members were Calhoon Vuncannon and wife, Elwood Cox and wife, the Bransons, and others. Little River Sunday School and Meeting was taken to Hopewell when the church was completed the Sunday School was held regularly and still continues.

By the year 1916, the Meeting felt that it was sufficiently strong to support a Monthly Meeting; therefore it requested Southern Quarterly Meeting to set up a Monthly Meeting at that place. The Quarterly Meeting granted the request and appointed Elwood Cox, William Winslow, Levi Lowe, Francis Hubbard, and others to set up the Meeting. This was done on the 27th day of May, 1916, with William C. Winslow acting as Clerk for the day. The Meeting was set up from Back Creek Monthly Meeting, with 36 members. Back Creek is called Hopewell's mother church.

Roscoe Branson was appointed the first Clerk, and held this position until he moved away in 1932. Nell Hussey was Assistant Clerk and later was appointed Clerk, a position which she held until the appointment of Trilby Hammond in 1942.

The present membership of Hopewell Meeting is forty-two. It is a conveniently located country church, eight miles southwest of Ashboro. Sabbath School is held each Sabbath, and preaching twice each month. The cemetery has over 230 graves.

The following pastors have served the church: Elwood Cox (served 30 years), John S. Tillman, Joseph Price, Thomas F. Andrew, Calvin Gregory, John Permar, Edward Harris, Allie R. Kemp, and the present pastor, Charlie Lamar.

BETHEL

Bethel Friends Meeting house, a white frame building, is located five miles southeast of Asheboro on state highway number 902.

This Meeting had its beginning as a separate group, when concerned Friends made the following request to Holly Spring Monthly Meeting through the Preparative body of that Meeting on the nineteenth of fifth month, 1821: "The Preparative Meeting informs that the most of the upper Friends of Richland Creek request the privilege of holding meeting for worship among themselves, which this Meeting approves."

In response to this request, Charles Cox, Enoch Barker, Nathan Cox, Steven Cox, Thomas Allen, Joseph Allen, Solomon Cox, and Mahlon Cox were appointed to "attend a sitting of them and report to their capability of holding such meetings." After two months of consideration they reported that the Friends were well capable of holding such meetings, and that the place was to be called Bethel. Holly Spring Monthly Meeting approved the report and informed Southern Quarterly Meeting of the action for its approval. At the Monthly Meeting held in tenth month the following Friends were appointed to attend the opening meeting: William Cox, Sr., John Camp, William Cox, Jr., and Charles Davis. These Friends reported to the Monthly Meeting in eleventh month that they "with the Friends of that place convened for said purpose on the thirty-first of tenth month, 1821."

Some time during this same year, Abner Barker deeded about one acre of land to Charles Stout and Simon Barker, trustees of the Bethel group of Friends. The first Meeting house, a log structure, was built on this plot of land. In twelfth month, 1839, William Cox deeded an additional tract of land to Jeremiah Kemp and Jeremiah Mendenhall, who were then trustees of the Meeting. These two plots of land constitute the lot upon which the Meeting house now stands.

The first Meeting house was burned about 1855. Another log house, covered with boards, was built soon thereafter. This house was thirty feet long and twenty-six feet wide. It had one door and three windows. The gallery extended across one end of the room. All the benches were slabs with wooden-peg legs, except the two in front, which were made of sawed lumber.

The first First-day school (which is now known as Bible or Sabbath school) was held about the year 1857.

On the fifteenth of first month, 1887, Bethel Friends informed Holly Spring Monthly Meeting that they desired to build a new Meeting house. The Meeting appointed Zimri Stout, Y. H. Cox and David Cox, as a building committee, with Y. H. Cox to act as treasurer.

At the Monthly Meeting held in the third month of the year 1888, the committee reported they had completed their work, and presented a financial statement of their proceedings. This building was a frame structure thirty feet long by twenty feet wide.

In the year 1901 the Meeting adopted the pastoral system and called Thomas F. Andrew as their first pastor. Since that time the following Friends have served the Meeting as pastors; Levi Cox, Nerius Barker, John Tillman, Milner Angel Cox, Albert Peele, Joseph Price, Edward B. Harris, and the present pastor, Victor Murchison. Both Milner Cox and Thomas Andrew have served two or more periods each, with the latter serving nearly twenty years in all.

As the Meeting grew, Friends realized their building was too small; therefore in the year 1904 they decided to enlarge the Meeting house, and built an additional twenty by thirty feet to the old structure. This constitutes the present building.

The first Elders that we know of were David and Annis Kemp, appointed in the year 1904.

As the Meeting continued to grow, Friends felt that they should have a Monthly Meeting, and on the eleventh of first month, 1921, a group of Friends living within the limits of Bethel Meeting asked Southern Quarterly Meeting to set up a Monthly Meeting at that place. The Quarterly Meeting approved the request and appointed a committee to set up the Meeting, which was done on the eighteenth of sixth month, 1921, with a total of fifty-eight charter members, composed largely of such names as Cox, Craven, Kemp, Pugh, Smith, Henson, Wright, McPherson, and others.

The first Clerk of this Meeting was Daniel Smith; other friends who have served as Clerk are Alta Smith, Pearl Craven Kemp, Virgie Smith Pugh, Carl Cox, and the present Clerk, Allie R. Kemp.

The present membership of the Meeting is one hundred six.

CEDAR SQUARE

Cedar Square is, and has been, a Quaker community as far back as there is available information. The church and public school have been so closely connected that it would be difficult to give a history of the church without giving a history of the school also. Both had their origin in a little log house about one mile east from the present Cedar Square Meeting house. The home of J. Ernest Davis is located at the exact spot where this building stood.

When a new school building was needed, Aaron Stalker, who for a number of years was Superintendent of New Garden Boarding School, deeded two acres of land to James Poole, David Coletrane and Isaac

Frazier, who composed the Board of Education. The deed was made first month twenty-third; the witness was Harrison Frazier. A school house was built with two large fire places, and furnished with slab benches. It was to be known as Stalkers School House.

After the Civil War, about 1869-1870, school was not held one year in order that they might use the money saved to ceil the building and furnish it with better seats.

On the nineteenth day of third month, 1873, Marlboro Monthly Meeting approved and forwarded to Southern Quarterly Meeting the request of Nathan F. Spencer which reads as follows: "On behalf of a number of other Friends who with himself are remotely situated from any Meeting of Friends, request the privilege of setting up and holding a meeting for Divine Worship at or near the Stalker School House on the First day of the week and near the middle of the week except on Monthly and Preparative Meeting weeks at Marlboro." The Quarterly Meeting approved the request and appointed Ezra Hammond, Daniel Allen, Thomas Hinshaw, Levi Cox, Jessie Frazier, and Isaac Lee, with a similar committee of women Friends, to attend the setting up of said Meeting and report to next meeting, together with a name for, and the time of holding the same.

There seems to be no recorded report of this committee, but from a following minute it is evident that the Meeting was set up and called Muddy Creek, after the name of a nearby creek.

Each week on fourth day (as that day was called by Friends) the men and women of the community would come in, and the children who were at school would lay aside their books and join in the meeting for worship. Sabbath School was held only during the summer months at first, using Webster's blue-backed Speller, and later, the New Testament.

At this time Friends, feeling the need of a church, bought two acres of land adjoining the school property from David and Susana Coletrane for \$20.00. The deed for this land was made the eighth of first month, to Jessie Frazier and Lemuel Spencer, trustees of Marlboro Monthly Meeting, and witnessed by Henry H. Beeson and Reuben Davis.

In the fall of 1876 the Meeting house was completed, and a square of cedars was set out around the church. Southern Quarterly Meeting, held fifth month twenty-sixth, 1877, approved a request of Muddy Creek Meeting and Marlboro Monthly Meeting to change the name of Muddy Creek Meeting to Cedar Square.

The custom of teachers and children in attending the mid-week meeting for worship was continued. Nathan F. Spencer, a devout resident minister, usually preached after a period of silence which sometimes seemed rather long. He also had charge of the worship service

on the Sabbath. There was no singing in the meetings for worship at that time, except occasionally when Jesse Frazier would sing alone. The Meeting did not have pastors then as now, but visiting ministers came along frequently.

At a Quarterly Meeting held at Science Hill in eleventh month, 1923, a committee was appointed to set up a Monthly Meeting at Cedar Square. This was done twelfth month the eighth, 1923.

A new school house was built in 1908. After the public schools were consolidated, the school house was sold. Talton L. Cox bought it and deeded it to Branson E. Davis, John L. Shelly, and Jasper R. Hinshaw, present trustees of Cedar Square, the property to be used for Bible school classes and other religious purposes. In 1925 the church was enlarged to make more room for Bible school classes.

Since the pastoral system was adopted the following ministers have served as pastors: Robert H. Melvin, Thomas Hendrix, Thomas Stamey, Norman Osborn, Elbert D. Newlin, Ben H. Millikan, Howard B. Yow, Reuben J. Payne, and Charlie Lamar, the present pastor.

Many useful men and women have gone out from Cedar Square, among them one doctor, four preachers and about forty public school teachers.

We receive courage and inspiration when we think of what has been done by faithful men and women who served well in their day and generation. We know that their labors have not been in vain.

SOUTH PLAINFIELD

About 1886 a log school house was built and given the name of Plainfield after the Friends Meeting by that name at Plainfield, Indiana. The late Benjamin Millikan had buried his first wife, Sarah Sawyer Millikan, at Plainfield, Indiana, and when choosing the name for a new school, Ben Millikan suggested the name of Plainfield, presumably to honor the memory of his wife.

A school was held in the winter, and religious services once a month. Most of the time Sabbath school was carried on in the summer months. A Methodist Church was organized, and the minister came once a month. The service was usually held on Tuesday at 11:00 o'clock and the minister spent the rest of that day and the next visiting the members. There were seven churches on the circuit.

Benjamin Millikan was the only steward in Plainfield Church; he was also Sunday school superintendent and exerted an influence for religious ideas and liberal education.

Some of the pastors who served the Meeting are as follows: Lyre, Gibbs, Bibbs, Stevenson, Wood, Nelson, and Jeremiah Craven.

About 1887 the log school house was replaced with a frame building which is now standing on the same spot where the original building stood.

The Methodists discontinued their meeting with a membership of about thirty, most of whom never joined another church for years, and some perhaps never. For several years religious meetings and Sunday school were discontinued. One period of service deserves mention here for it was about this time that Dr. C. C. Hubbard and Edgar Williams of Worthville carried on a very interesting Sabbath school, with Dr. Hubbard as superintendent.

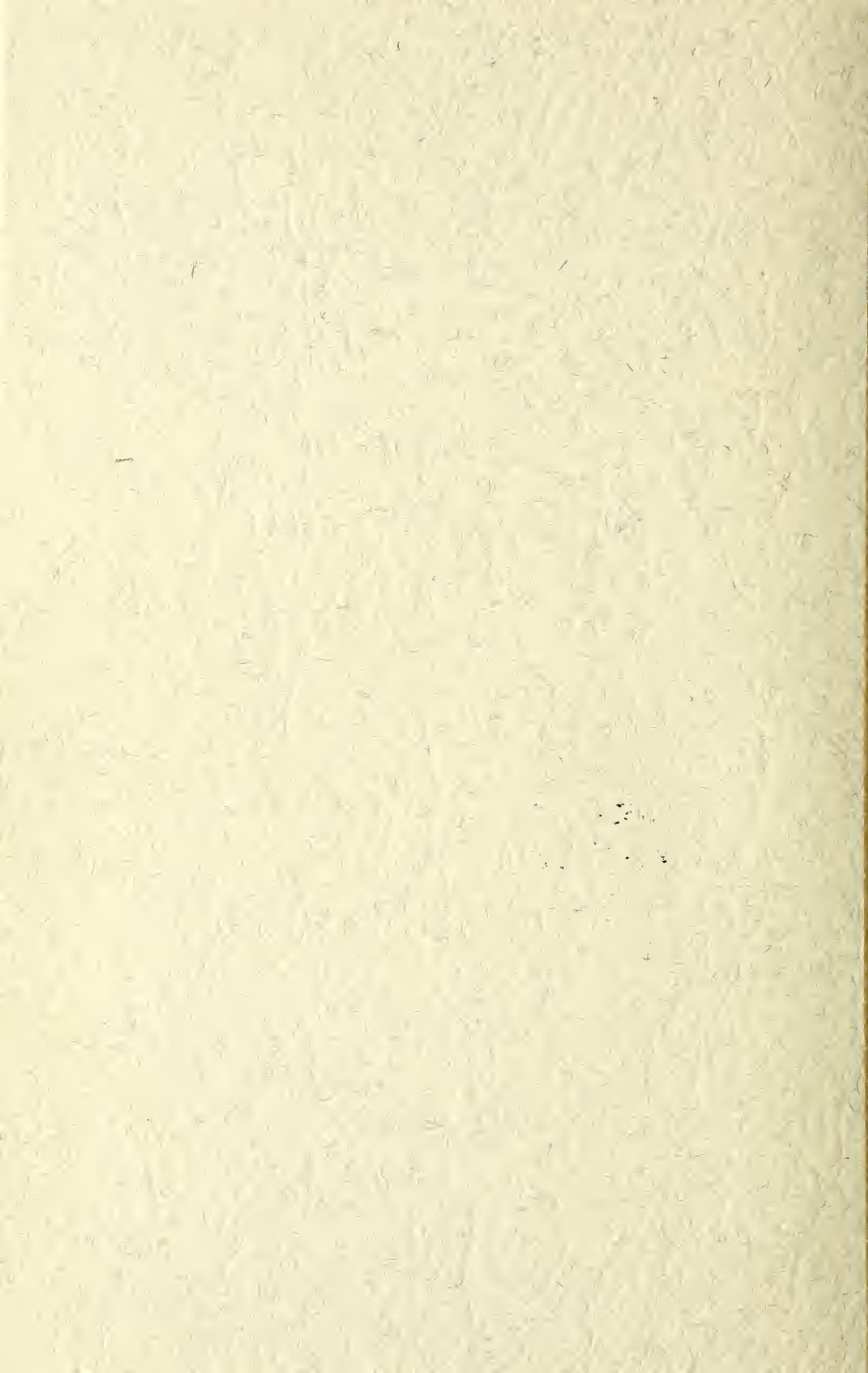
D. W. Bulla, with some help from the community, built the present Meeting house about 1893. It is near the sight of the old school house. For a few years all denominations who desired held services in this building.

Azel Millikan, Daniel Millikan and his wife, Mrs. Benjamin Millikan, the Farlows, and D. W. Bulla and family were all Friends, and in a few years the house, with a sizeable tract of land, was deeded to Marlboro Monthly Meeting. Other denominations were allowed to hold services, and it is comparatively recently that Plainfield has been a Quaker Meeting.

Many series of meetings have been held, and a year-round Sabbath school has been conducted for many years. Some of the people who deserve mention for carrying on the work are: Michael A. Farlow, Michael C. Farlow, Herbert Lanier, Jimmie and Mary Ragan, Thomas Robbins, Baud B. Bulla, Rom and Hazel Pearce, Irene Farlow, Troy and Blanche Millikan, and Sam S. Nelson. Two other people deserve mention: Elwood Millikan and his wife of Sheridan, Indiana, who gave one year of faithful service several years ago.

In 1938 the community remodeled, repaired, and repainted the building. In December, 1940, a monthly meeting was set up with a membership of thirty-eight, with Irene Farlow as Clerk. Charles and Cora Lee Johnson were called as pastors. The Meeting is now known as South Plainfield, in order that it may be distinguished from Plainfield in Western Quarter.

A well-attended Sabbath school is carried on with a large average attendance. The community is working together in a most sincere way, and a good work is being done. Many whose names are not given here have deserved praise for their untiring efforts to establish this work and keep it going.



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